53BC CARRHAE 53BC

Caius Cassius Longinus (d 42BC) leader of conspiracy to assassinate Julius Caesar, was a quaestor under M. Licinius Crassus (rich) at CARRHAE. When Crassus was killed Cassius Longinus saved what was left of the army after the battle.

53BC

Battle of CARRHAE.
By their archery Parthians
won victory against
Roman Legions at CARRHAE
in North Mesopotamia

53-52BC

Vercingetorix, Gauls' greatest hero organized a general uprising of all the tribes. The flame of insurrection swept over the whole country. The Campaign culminated in the Siege of ALESIA (ALISE-SAINTE-REINE in Burgundy) an almost impregnable fortress into which the rebel Chieftain led thousands himself

with 80,000 men. Caesar invested the place with less than 50,000, and was presently himself invested by an enormous army of relief estimated at over 240,000 men. But he completely routed the vast host, and Vercingetorix worn out by hunger, surrendered. By the end of the following year Caesar was at leisure to address himself to the peaceful organization of the new territory.

53 BC

Crassus died in the Parthian war.

52BC - 3rd Gallic War

Caesars Gallic Wars.

The summer of 53BC was comparatively quiet, but all central Gaul was seething with discontent. A really great leader, VERCINGETORIX took charge of the 3rd Gallic revolt. The Gauls decided to start out before Caesar arrived from Italy & cut off his return to the army, but Caesar saw the danger and hurried northward long before the usual time. With a small force he crossed the Cevennes mountains, in spite of 6ft of snow in the passes, and began to loot the Gallic farms. The Gauls had to retreat and Caesar reached his main

army. It was very difficult for the Gauls to unite for the common good; but VERCINGETORIX, who had a stronger hold on the tribes than any earlier leader, did induce them to allow the wholesale destruction of food stores that they could not protect, for thus he hoped to wear the Romans out. Caesar was in a critical position, for it was now hard to get enough food for his soldiers. Furthermore, the tactic from which he had drawn his cavalry went over to the enemy and he had to train German cavalry

53 BC

Death of Crassus – drastically weakened the ties between Caesar and Pompey.

53 BC

Crassus' death in Parthia ended the 1st triumviral and set Pompey and Caesar face-to-face.

53 BC

Marcus Licinius Crassus
(member 1st triumvirate
killed in battle against
the Parthians

His son by the same name
was also killed in battle
against the Parthians

53BC

The TREVERI routed

Caesar had many reasons for expecting still more serious disturbances before long. He therefore charged three of his generals MARCUS SILANUS, GAIUS ANTISTIUS REGINUS, and TITUS SEXTIUS with the duty of raising fresh troops.

53BC

After the death of INDUTIOMARUS, his command was transferred by the Treveri to members of his family, who persisted in trying to obtain the support of the neighbouring German tribes by promises of money. they made an alliance confirmed by exchange of oaths, and hostages were given. AMBIORIX also was admitted

as a partner to the league. Caesar was informed and saw warlike preparations going on all around: the NERVII, ATUATUCI and MENAPII with all the tribes of German origin on the west bank of the Rhine and other neighborhoods. Caesar therefore decided that he must take the field in the advance of the usual season.

53 B.C.

The Second Crossing of the Rhine

Caesar determined to cross the Rhine again for two reasons:

① Because the Germans had sent the TREVERI reinforcements to use against him

② To prevent AMBIORIX's finding an asylum in Germany.

He therefore proceeded to build a bridge above the place where he had crossed before. Leaving a strong guard on the Gallic side of the bridge to prevent any sudden rising on the part of the TREVERI

53BC

Crassus died and the phenomenal success of Caesar in Gaul eventually destroyed Caesar's relationship with Pompey.

53BC

Battle of CARRHAE-I (Wars of 1st Triumvirate)

When time for 1st Triumvirate assigned themselves spheres of action, MARCUS LICINIUS CRASSUS took Syria (Julius Caesar received Gaul, and Pompey the Great, Spain). Crassus hurried east to intervene in a dynastic quarrel among the Parthians. At Carrhae (Haran) in northern Mesopotamia, Crassus' army encountered a Parthian force commanded by ORODES I, the anti-Roman claimant of the throne. The Parthians fought their cavalry skillfully, harassing the Romans with hit-and-run tactics. When the more heavily armed legionaires charged the elusive horse-

men, their ranks became scattered. The Parthians then turned on Crassus and cut down his detachments in detail. Of the 6,000 Romans actually engaged, 5500 were killed. The others were captured, including Crassus, who was promptly executed.

With the death of Crassus, and with Caesar busy fighting the Gauls across the Alps, Pompey the Great became virtual dictator of Rome.

Crassus crossed the Euphrates and met the Parthians at CARRHAE. Their superior cavalry defeated him, and his son fell in battle. Crassus was withdrawing his forces in good order when the Parthian general invited him to a conference. He went and was treacherously slain. His head was sent to play the part of Pentheus in a performance of Euripides' BACCHAE at the Parthian court; and

his leaderless army, long wearied of the campaign, disappeared in a disorderly rout.

the debacle of Crassus and his army removed another balancing force between Pompey & Caesar. Become a victorious Crassus would have opposed the dictatorship of either Caesar or Pompey. Henceforth Pompey openly allied himself with the conservatives. His plan to secure supreme power through legal forms had now only one obstacle— the ambition and army of Caesar.

Knowing that Caesar's command would expire in 49 BC, Pompey secured decrees continuing his own command to the end of 46 BC. and requiring all Italians capable of bearing arms to take an oath of military fealty to him personally; in this way, he hoped time itself would make him master of Rome -

DURANT

While the potential dictators maneuvered for position, the capital filled with the odor of a dying democracy. Verdicts, offices, provinces, and client kings were sold to the highest bidders. In the year 53BC the first voting division in the Assembly was paid 10 million sesterces for its vote. When money failed, murder was available; or a man's past was raked over, and blackmail brought him to terms. Crime flourished in the city, brigandage in the country; no

police force existed to control it. Rich men hired bands of gladiators to protect them, or to support them in the COMITIA. The lowest elements in Italy were attracted to Rome by the smell of money or the gift of corn, and made the meetings of the Assembly a desecration. Any man who would vote as paid was admitted to the rolls, whether citizen or not; sometimes only a minority of those who cast ballots were entitled to vote. Legislation came to be determined by the fluctuating superiority of rival gangs; those who voted the wrong way were beaten to death & their houses set afire.

53BC

DURANT

Claudius & Milo were Rome's most distinguished experts in force, this band of parliament. They organized rival bands of ruffians for political purposes, and hardly a day passed without some test of their strength. One day Clodius assaulted Cicero in the street, another day his warriors burned down MILO's house; at last Clodius himself was caught by Milo's gang and killed (52 BC)

Vercingetorix, Gaul's greatest hero, organized a general uprising of all the tribes. The flame of insurrection swept over the whole country.

The Campaign culminated in the siege of Alesia (ALISE - Sainte-Reine in Burgundy), an almost impregnable fortress into which the Gallic Chieftain had thrown himself with 80,000

men - hotly pursued by Caesar with 60,000 men (he had received 2 more legions) Caesar then was himself invested with an enormous army of relief estimated at over 240,000 men. But he completely routed this vast host and Vercingetorix, worn out by hunger, surrendered.